



ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

For the Year ending
31st December, 1937.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(1) *Medical Officer of Health (part time) :*

THOMAS FORSYTH,

M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Glas.) (Camb.)

(2) *Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (Full time) :*

GEORGE E. MARLOW,

M.Inst M. & Cy.E., Certif. R.S.I.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending 31st December, 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary State of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, 6,190 acres.

Resident Population, R.G.'s Estimate, 1937, 5,890.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1735.

Rateable Value, £33591.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £131.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town of which the chief industries are:—Agriculture, Coalmining, Earthenware and Brickmaking.

No particular industry or occupation was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population during the year.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS—				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...		68	38	30
Illegitimate	...	...		4	2	2
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				72	40	32

Birth Rate=12'2 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Birth Rate, 1937=14'9 per 1000 population.

STILL BIRTHS—				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...		1	1	0
Illegitimate	...	...		0	0	0
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				1	1	0

Still Birth Rate=13'69 per 1000 total (live and still) Births
or Still Birth Rate=0'16 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Still Birth Rate, 1937=0.62 per 1000 population.

Deaths. Total 88. Male 52. Female 36.

Death Rate=14'9 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Death Rate, 1937=12'4 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—				Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.		
				Ashby U.D.	England and Wales, 1937.	
(1)	From Sepsis	...	...	0	Nil	0'97
(2)	From Other Causes	...	...	0	Nil	2'26
					0	3'23

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

				Total	Male	Female
All Infants	...	...		8	5	3
Legitimate	...	...		6	3	3
Illegitimate	...	...		2	2	0

The Infantile Mortality Rate=111 per 1000 live Births.

England and Wales Infantile Mortality Rate 1937=58 per 1000 live Births.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants=88'23 per 1000 Legitimate live Births.

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants=500 per 1000 Illegitimate live Births.

During the year 1937, Deaths occurred from the following Diseases :—

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	14
Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	0

Causes of Death in 1937.

Diseases				Male	Female	Total
Measles	...	...	...	1	0	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	1	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	1	0	1
Influenza	...	...	...	1	0	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	2	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	...	0	0	0
Cancer	...	...	...	5	9	14
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	1	3	4
Heart Disease	...	...	...	11	14	25
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	4	1	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	0	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	4	2	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	0	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	0	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	1	0	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	3	0	3
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	...	4	2	6
Other Violence...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	5	1	6
Total				52	36	88

The chief causes of Death in 1937 were :—Heart Disease 25, Cancer 14, Pneumonia 6, Diseases of the Circulation 5, Cerebral Haemorrhage 4, Tuberculosis 3.

Compared with 1936 :—Heart Disease 26, Cancer 6, Cerebral Haemorrhage 6, Tuberculosis 5, Pneumonia 4.

Section B—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals.

(1) FEVER.—Hospitals for the treatment of Infectious Diseases are provided by the Combined Leicestershire Hospitals Committee at Markfield, Hinckley, Blaby and Melton. The nearest Hospital to your area is at Markfield (54 beds).

(2) Smallpox.—Hospitals are provided at Snarestone (23 beds) and at Syston (15 beds) by the Leicestershire County Council.

B (1) Tuberculosis.—The County Sanatorium at Markfield with 126 beds is available for the treatment of Tuberculosis.

(2) MATERNITY.—The Ashby Cottage Hospital is situated in your district and is suitable for Maternity Cases. Institutional treatment is provided by the Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital and by Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Hospital provision is made at Markfield Isolation Hospital for cases of Puerperal Infection.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council for the services of consultants in serious Puerperal Cases.

(3) CHILDREN.—Institutional treatment is available at Leicester Royal Infirmary, Loughborough Infirmary and Ashby Cottage Hospital. The Sanatorium at Markfield provides for the treatment of children suffering from Tuberculosis Disease.

(4) OTHER.—Provision is made by the County Council at the Children's Convalescent Home at Woodhouse Eaves for delicate and illnourished children from 3 to 5 years of age.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) Ambulances are provided by the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals Committee for the removal of cases of Infectious Diseases.

(b) Non-Infectious cases are provided for by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Most of the Collieries provide ambulances for cases of accidents in the mines.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS are provided by the County Council.

AN INFANT WELFARE CENTRE is held weekly in the Baptist School Room, Brook Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

At the COALVILLE HEALTH CENTRE, Bridge Road, Coalville, is held an Anti-natal Clinic, a Tuberculosis Dispensary, an Orthopedic Clinic, School and Dental Clinics.

A VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

GENERAL NURSING is provided in the homes by the District Nurse provided by the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Nursing Association. Cases of Infectious Diseases are not attended by the District Nurse. No provision is made for the nursing of such diseases as Measles, etc. in the homes.

Laboratory Facilities.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations are provided for in the County Council Laboratory, Leicester.

During the year 1937 the following Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations were carried out in the County Laboratory for your district :—

(1)	Milk Examinations	...	...	52
(2)	Swabs for Diphtheria	...	...	12
(3)	Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	8
(4)	Sewage and Water Analysis	...	...	3
(5)	Miscellaneous Tests	...	...	25
				<hr/>
				100
				<hr/>

Section C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.—Water is supplied by the Swadlincote and Ashby Joint Water Board. The supply of water has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity but as a precautionary measure the water was turned off from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily during the months of October and November 1937. The extension of the water main along the Leicester Road to supply New Packington has been commenced and this together with the extension of mains to supply the village of Blackfordby will be completed during the coming year.

Shallow wells are still used in the outlying parts of the district where the mains have not yet been carried. Samples of water from 3 wells were analysed during the year and found to be unsatisfactory. The 3 wells were cleansed and repaired.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—During the year a complaint was made of pollution of the stream which forms the boundary of the field on Nottingham Road which is used for tipping refuse. This question was the subject of a Special Report to the Ministry of Health by me.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.—Extension of the sewers in Willesley Lane has been commenced and will be completed early in the coming year.

Extensions of sewers in Nottingham Road and Measham Road are under consideration.

The number of Cesspools in the District at end of 1937 ... 158

The number of Cesspools abolished during the year, ... 0

The Sewage Disposal Works at Packington and at Willesley are acting efficiently.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION.—Total number in the district at end of 1937 :—

(1) Privies, 83. (2) Pail Closets, 43. (3) W.C.'s, 1049.

Number of privies (middens) and Pail Closets converted to the water carriage system during the year 4

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—House refuse is collected weekly by Council Workmen with a covered motor lorry and carted to tips where it is deposited in layers about 2 feet 6 inches deep and covered with earth about 9 inches in depth.

Earth Closets and Privies are emptied at night by Council workmen and the contents are carted on to suitable land and ploughed in.

Ashpits are emptied at regular intervals and the contents are treated in the same manner as house refuse.

Cesspools are emptied at regular intervals by the Council workmen and the contents carted on to land and ploughed in.

At Blackfordby the removal of house refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies and ashpits is carried out by a Contractor under the supervision of the Councils' Surveyor in a manner similar to the rest of the district.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of complaints received during the year was 24. 654 inspections were made for all purposes. The number of premises visited was 344. 216 defects or nuisances were discovered. 276 notices were served, 214 informal and 26 formal. 204 defects were remedied after service of notices. No summonses were issued.

Shops.

No action was taken during the year under the provision of the Shops Act 1934 relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to Sanitary Conveniences.

Smoke Abatement.

Two nuisances from smoke were dealt with during the year.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye Laws and Regulations.

There is one Common Lodging House in the district. Three inspections were made during the year. The general conditions are satisfactory.

There was one Dwelling Van in the district. The sanitary accommodation was insufficient. Two inspections were made. The van was removed.

There is one offensive trade in the district (Soap Works). Two inspections were made. The general conditions are satisfactory.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one public owned open air swimming bath in the area. The water is changed and the bath cleansed with Chlorox fortnightly. A constant stream of clean water runs through the Bath and the water is chlorinated frequently.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Council Houses found infested...	...	Nil
Number of other Dwelling Houses found infested...		2
Number of houses disinfested	... ..	2

The methods employed for disinfestation were Fumigation with Cimex Block fumigators and spraying with Zaldecide fluid.

Disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority.

Methods employed for ensuring the Tenants belongings are free from Vermin before removal to Council Houses

... ..	Nil
Measures taken of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation...	Nil

Schools.

All the Schools are supplied by water from the Public Main, and with exception of Blackfordby C. of E. School all are on the Water Carriage System.

The sanitary condition of the Schools are satisfactory.

Section D.—Housing.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

1.	(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	164
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	316
2.	(a)	Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Consolidated Regs, 1925....	68
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	105
3.		Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	17
4.		Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	51

II.—Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

	Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	6
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III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

	(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :—	
1.		Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	45
2.		Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a)	By Owners	40
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
1.	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	15
2.	Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	12
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
1.	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	14
2.	Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	7
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
2.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

IV.—Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV). Overcrowding :—

(a)	1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	30
	2. Number of Families dwelling therein	31
	3. Number of Persons dwelling therein	216
(b)	Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	1. Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	6
	2. Number of Persons concerned in such cases...	39

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of Overcrowding Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to Overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... Nil

Section E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

RETAIL PURVEYORS.—There are 25 Retailers on the Register. 25 Inspections were made of their premises. 6 contraventions were found and 4 remedied.

PRODUCERS (including Producers who retail their own milk).—There are 35 on the Register. 40 Inspections were made of their premises. 31 contraventions were found and 26 were remedied. 16 required cleansing, 7 required structural alterations, and 8 other defects.

THE MILK (Special Designations) ORDER, 1936:—

The following Licences have been granted:—

1 to bottle Accredited Milk.

1 licence to Pasteurise Milk.

1 licence to retail Pasteurised Milk.

The total number of Milch Cows in the district is 570 compared with 546 in the previous year.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

There is no Public Abattoir.

Private Slaughter Houses	In January, 1937.	In December, 1937.
Number Registered ...	5	5
Number Licenced ...	1	1

20 Inspections of these premises were made with 40 Inspections of Meat at the time of slaughter.

There are no Meat Stalls and no approval has been given to meat marketing.

24 Inspections were made of Meat Shops and Meat Stores, etc.

6 Contraventions were found and remedied.

10 Inspections of Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale were made. 2 Contraventions were found and remedied.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total Weight
Number killed	not known	--	—	—	—	—
Number Inspected	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole Carcases condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	0	0	0	0	—
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole Carcases condemned ...	1	0	0	0	0	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	0	0	0	0	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	not known	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	not known	—	—	—	—	—

The following Meat was also condemned and destroyed :—
Ham, 32lbs. Sausages 30lbs. Chilled Beef 15lbs. Corned
Beef, 6lbs. Ox Tongue 6lbs.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

Premises.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of Prosecutions.
Factories 11 ...	13	8	Nil.
Workshops ...	16	4	Nil.
Workplaces ...	5	2	Nil.
Total	34	14	Nil.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

Particulars.	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	No. of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	4	4	Nil.	Nil.
Structural repairs	6	5	Nil.	Nil.
Other defects ...	6	4	Nil.	Nil.
	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 13	<hr/> Nil.	<hr/> Nil.

Section F.—Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring during 1937 :

Diseases	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	4	4	0
Diphtheria ...	1	1	0
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	1
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	3	0
Total	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified during the year.

Age Distribution of Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Age Period	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric Fever
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0
1—2	0	0	0	0	0
2—3	0	0	0	0	0
3—4	0	0	0	0	0
4—5	0	0	0	0	0
5—10	3	0	0	0	0
10—15	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	0	0	1	0	0
20—35	1	1	0	3	0
35—45	0	0	0	0	0
45—65	0	0	0	0	1
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 1

Comparision of the Case Rates for Ashby Urban District 1937, with the corresponding Case Rates for England and Wales 1937.

Diseases.	Ashby Urban District.	England & Wales.
Scarlet Fever	... 0'67 per 1000 population	... 2'33 per 1000
Diphtheria	... 0'17 „ „ „	... 1'49 „ „

Four Cases of Scarlet Fever occurred during the year. All the cases occurred in the months August and September. One case was in an adult. The other three cases were in children of five and six years of age. No deaths occurred.

No use was made of the “Dick” Test.

DIPHTHERIA—One case occurred in the month of February in an adult. Recovery was complete.

No use was made of the “Shick test or of artificial means of Immunisation.

Antitoxin is provided under the Diphtheria Antitoxin Order 1910.

ENTERIC FEVER.—One case occurred during year, resulting in death. The source of infection in this case was from an infected water supply in an adjoining district where this man was employed.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—Three cases were notified from the Maternity Section of the Ashby Cottage Hospital throughout the year. No deaths resulted from this condition.

INFLUENZA was extremely prevalent in the month of January. Although the incidence was great the severity was less than former epidemics of this disease. One death was attributed to this disease.

Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent during 1937. One death was attributed to each of these diseases.

CANCER.—There was a considerable increase in the number of deaths from this disease during 1937. 14 deaths were attributed to Cancer. 5 Males and 9 Females, In contrast to 6 deaths in 1936, 4 Males and 2 Females.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
45—	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55—	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1 1		0 0		1 2		0 0	

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

All the Deaths from Tuberculosis occurring during the year had been notified prior to death.

The District is fortunate in possessing Two well-equipped parks (14 acres in all) for open-air sports and recreation. In the larger Park, an Open-air Swimming Bath is provided. These were presented to the Town by the late Sir Joseph Hood, Bart.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. E. Marlow, for his very valuable help in compiling this Report. Many of the details are taken from his Annual Summary.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS FORSYTH,

M.O.H.

